

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS BELFAST 342

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: PEACE LEADERS ITINERARY

REF: BELFAST 339

1. MRS. BETTY WILLIAMS AND MISS MAIREAD CORRIGAN WILL DEPART NORTHERN IRELAND OCTOBER 4 FOR BUFFALO. THEY WILL DO ONE TELECAST OCTOBER 5 FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING AND TRAVEL TO NEW YORK CITY FOR MEETING OCTOBER 6. MEETING IN NEW YORK IS WITH CHURCH WOMEN UNITED AND IS BEING ARRANGED BY FATHER DAVID BOWMAN, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST. ANOTHER LONGER VISIT IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR JANUARY AT WHICH TIME WILLIAMS/CORRIGAN HOPE TO PRESENT TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY COMPILED FROM RESTRICTED ARCHIVES GRAPHICALLY SHOWING EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUAL VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

2. MRS. WILLIAMS AND MISS CORRIGAN DIFFER IN THEIR APPROACHES. MRS. WILLIAMS IS MORE COMBATIVE AND INTENDS TO PERSUADE "WORKING-CLASS AMERICANS" TO STOP CONTRIBUTING FUNDS WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR. MISS CORRIGAN IS GENTLER AND MORE CONSCIOUS OF COMPLEXITIES OF SITUATION.

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BOTH ARE GENUINE AND SINCERE AND ARE AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVES

THEIR TIME AND PLACE. THEY HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED NEAR-MIRACLE IN STARTING POPULAR MOVEMENT THAT CROSSES SECTARIAN LINES AND CONTINUES TO GROW. THEY CONFIRM NOMINATIONS FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE (REFTEL. THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT SOLICIT FUNDS.

3. REPORTING OFFICER HAS DECLINED INVITATIONS TO MEET WILLIAMS /CORRIGAN IN PUBLIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONVERSATION ENSUED FOLLOWING VISA APPLICATIONS. ELEMENTS IN REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT BELFAST PROFESS BELIEF AMERICANS AT CONGEN ARE CONNECTED WITH CIA AND PROVISIONAL IRA WOULD DELIGHT IN DISTORTING PURPOSE ANY PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCREDIT PEACE MOVEMENT. CONGEN SUGGESTS HOWEVER DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONSIDER FACILITATING MEETINGS OF CIVIC LEADERS WITH MISS CORRIGAN AND MRS. WILLIAMS IN UNITED STATES.

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